

The Brooklyn Jewish Center Review

January, 1945

THE HISTORIC EMERGENCY COUNCIL CONTROVERSY

COMPLETE STATEMENTS OF DR. SILVER AND DR. GOLDSTEIN

THE NEED FOR DR. SILVER'S LEADERSHIP

By LOUIS J. GRIBETZ

RESTORING THE INFLUENCE OF THE SYNAGOGUE

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LINCOLN AND THE JEWS

By LEO SHPALL

NEW BOOKS

NEWS OF THE MONTH

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FORUM LECTURES

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JANUARY 29, 1945



ALEXANDER H. UHL

Mr. Uhl, "PM's" foreign editor, has just returned home after covering the European war and home fronts for eight months. Some of his dispatches have made journalistic history. He is the only American correspondent who witnessed the liberation of both Rome and Paris; he saw the fighting in Italy, France, Holland and Germany. He scored a clean world beat on the news of the Spanish Republican uprising on the French-Spanish border. He was first with stirring stories of the fate of Rome Jewry and of the triumphant emergence to maturity of the French underground press.

SUBJECT:

"Eye-Witness Reports from the Western
Fronts"

FEBRUARY 5th

Symposium on

"WHAT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE ALLIES IN LIBERATED COUNTRIES"

SPEAKERS:

DEAN ALFANGE

Liberal Party leader, and one of the outstanding of the newer public figures, will present the American point of view.

DR. HERMAN FINER

formerly of the University of London, now visiting Professor of Political Science, Harvard University, will present the viewpoint of Great Britain.

Miss ROSE MAURER

Former Editor of *Russia at War* and the *American Review of Soviet Union*, who lived in Russia from 1935 to 1937, will speak for the policy of Soviet Russia.

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER REVIEW

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No. 20

THE NEED FOR DR. SILVER'S LEADERSHIP

WE ARE witnessing an interesting psychological phenomenon in American Jewish life. Never before in American Zionism has there been such discordancy of sentiment, such violent clashes between the elected Zionist representatives and their constituents, involving Zionist leadership.

The Administration of the Zionist Organization of America—the Executive Committee and the Administrative Council—voted by large majorities to approve the resignation of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver as co-chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council and as chairman of its Executive. Such action, in the light of the antecedent situation, is tantamount to the repudiation of the policies of Dr. Silver in the Council and to his elimination from official ranking Zionist leadership in this country.

This conduct of the Administration is contrary to the expressed will of what appears to be already a major segment of the rank and file of loyal Zionists throughout the land. Many Zionist Regions which have debated and considered the subject at length have overwhelmingly expressed their endorsement of Dr. Silver's program and leadership. They deplore the attitude of the Administration as a disservice to Zionism. Re-enforced by the entire Yiddish press, other Zionist bodies, and the great body of individual Zionists, they declare Dr. Silver's services to Zionism to be indispensable, and vigorously demand his retention in office.

The heart and mind of the Zionist public beat spontaneously in unison with the aspirations and activities of Dr. Silver. Ardent and true Zionists know that there is no more sagacious, loyal or indefatigable servant of the cause than he. With scorn, they reject as egregiously magnified and as specious the

charge that he breached the discipline of the organization and thereby merited the ostracism inflicted.

They are not impressed by the argument that he injured the interests of Zionism by pressing for the passage by Congress of the Palestine Resolution in the absence of a "green light" from the State Department. There was no clear, imperious mandate which disabled Dr. Silver from pursuing the course taken by him, under pain of his subsequently being denounced as a virtual traitor to Zionism. They also consider reprehensible the studious efforts by some Zionist leaders to make it appear that he has become a pariah even to the White House. It is inconceivable to them that, after the Democratic and Republican parties had adopted planks favoring a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, and after the President had forthrightly and unqualifiedly pledged his efforts to bring about such Commonwealth in the event of his re-election, Dr. Silver would be committing an offense against the Chief Executive in going forward as he did, with dignity and decorum, to bring the matter to its natural and logical conclusion.

The ranks of Zionism feel baffled and bitter. They behold with dismay the undeserved removal from the edifice of Zionist life of one of its sturdiest props. A great void has been created.

Dr. Silver is a dynamic and constructive leader with a coherent, positive program. Magnificently equipped, and ideally fitted for discharging Zionism's heaviest responsibilities and consummating its immense opportunities, Dr. Silver is a tower of strength not only to the cause, but to its adherents. With brilliance and force, he has expressed the innermost aspirations of the Zionist movement to the Jewish and non-Jewish

world. Ably and persuasively, he has inspired sympathy and support for Zionism in all quarters.

In this crucial, tragic hour of Jewish life, the matchless courage, fervor and resourcefulness of Dr. Silver are sorely needed. The Zionist masses cannot afford to be deprived of his stimulating and sustaining guidance. Their wholehearted and persistent cry for his return to leadership cannot be stifled or ignored.

Heavy though their hearts may be as a result of this controversy, Zionists will not lose faith in the movement nor slacken their efforts to achieve its goal.

All of us must, under any circumstances, diligently strive for the reconstitution of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. To that end we should unremittingly continue with the manifold activities required for the strengthening and advancement of the Zionist bodies and the Zionist movement.

— LOUIS J. GRIBETZ

Churchill Refuted

THAT Winston Churchill is a great statesman is, of course, a truism of modern history. That he is a man of great courage, and in this respect the personification of British tenacity, was established immediately after Dunkirk. His proclamation, "we will fight on the beaches," will remain the most magnificent call to national determination in the annals of mankind.

It must not be overlooked that Winston Churchill is, nevertheless, and despite all of this, a British politician. It could hardly be otherwise in view of the lifetime he has spent in the muddled currents of British political life. It is unfortunate that in his dealings with the Jewish people, and particularly with the question of Palestine, Churchill chooses to be not the statesman, but the politician. When, some months ago, two mem-

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"JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES"

"בינינו לבי' עצמינו"

An Intimate Chat Between Rabbi and Reader

Restoring the Influence of the Synagogue

A NEWS item appeared recently in a number of newspapers and periodicals which should give us considerable concern. The National Opinion Research Center, at the University of Denver, which conducts national polls on important subjects, has released figures following a nation-wide survey, which reveal that the attendance of Jews at religious services is far behind that of the other denominations. Only eighteen percent of the Jews questioned said that they attended synagogues at least once a month, while 83 percent of the Catholics and 65 percent of the Protestants go to church at least once a month. An interesting side-light of this survey was the revelation that the percentage of women attending the religious services of all the denominations was considerably higher than that of the men.

This is not the first time that such a survey was taken, nor is it, alas, the first time that a poll has shown that we Jews are most delinquent in synagogue attendance. And I think that it is high time that we should begin to give thought to this serious situation.

Now it is true that synagogue attendance is not to be taken as the sole test

of Jewish religiosity. Unlike church attendance among our Christian brethren, attendance at synagogue services has never been taken as a test of a Jewish religious life. Synagogue attendance is urged and commended by our Rabbis; it is regarded as a better and more worthy way of offering our prayers. But the Jewish life is surrounded by many *Mitzvot*, or religious obligations, which the Jew must observe always—at his home, at the meal table, when he rises in the morning and when he retires at night, in his relationship to his family, to his neighbor, and to those in need and in want. It is by the performance of these duties, even more than by synagogue attendance, that the worthiness of the Jew's religious, or Jewish, life is to be judged.

But while all this is true, it is also true that synagogue attendance was always practised by the Jews because the Jews realized that it was in the synagogue that they derived the inspiration to live the Jewish life, and if we note today a breakdown in the Jewish way of life it may be traced directly to the lack of synagogue attendance. Absenting himself from the synagogue, the Jew has lost

been definitely established. The two assassins placed on trial in an Egyptian court for the murder, have confessed their guilt and have publicly named the Stern group as the sole instigators of the crime. They have not attempted in any way to connect their act with the policy or program of any responsible group in the Yishub or with any of the official bodies of the community. It is clear now, by reason of their confession, just as it was equally clear months ago because of all other evidence, that they and they alone bear the responsibility for this murder. It is now a question whether Mr. Churchill, the statesman, will be magnanimous enough to right the wrong which he has done to the Jewish people by acting as Churchill the politician.

contact with the all-powerful spiritual force which formerly directed him in the path of Jewish duty.

There is no substitute for the influence of the synagogue; and in this busy, hectic life today, we need that influence more than we ever needed it in the past.

There is another phase to this problem which must also be considered. I do not want to press the claim for synagogue attendance because of this consideration. But the fact remains that the American civilization rests upon a religious foundation. While, constitutionally, America is founded upon the separation of Church and State, the heart of America is religious. The American people, as a whole, regard religion as a vital and essential force in the molding of American life. Our neighbors who do regard church attendance as the symbol of one's attitude toward religion will undoubtedly look askance at those who absent themselves from the House of God. They will regard such men and women as lacking in those qualities of idealism and spirituality which have helped to make America what it is, and which they associate with the fundamentals of religion common to all denominations.

The leaders in all our congregations must begin to grapple with this problem. Synagogue affiliation must not be based upon the payment of dues alone; it must be based upon the realization that the duty of the member is to make the synagogue his second home, and to become part and parcel of the worshipping congregation. Nay, more, the lay leaders in all our synagogues should set the standard of synagogue attendance. They alone can make attendance at worship popular. The masses will follow their leadership.

The figures of the Denver survey reflect no honor upon us. Those who take Jewish life seriously and who are vitally concerned about the future of Jewish life in the United States are faced with a great challenge—to bring the Jew back to the synagogue and thus restore the power and the influence of the synagogue to create a better, worthier, nobler Jewish life.

—WILLIAM I. SIEGEL

THE HISTORIC EMERGENCY COUNCIL CONTROVERSY

Statement of Dr. Israel Goldstein

President of the Zionist Organization
of America

REPORTS concerning the American Zionist Emergency Council which have appeared currently in the press, and particularly the statements made by its former co-chairman and chairman of its Executive Committee, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, make necessary the issuance of this statement.

We feel it to be our duty to make available to Zionists of the country the essential facts which have led up to this controversy. Throughout this time, and under most difficult circumstances, the members representing the Zionist Organization of America in the Emergency Council have been guided solely by their reasoned judgment as to the best interests of our movement.

The Zionists of the country may be assured that there is no basis whatever to the contention that this is an issue of "maximal" as against "minimal" Zionism, or that this is a problem of an "aggressive" policy as against "timidity," "appeasement" and "backstairs diplomacy."

After the adoption by the Democratic and Republican parties of planks in their respective platforms concerning Palestine, and after the historic message sent to the convention of the Zionist Organization of America by President Roosevelt on October 15, 1944, the Emergency Council met on several occasions to consider what course it should adopt in regard to the resolutions then pending before the committees of the House and Senate of the Congress of the United States.

At a meeting on October 30, 1944, after thorough discussion, the Emergency Council decided *unanimously* NOT to press for the reporting out of the resolutions and for their passage, unless and until the preliminary approval of the executive branch of the Government shall have been secured. The events of last

The developments following the request of Secretary of State Stettinius that action on the Palestine Resolution be deferred by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee precipitated a controversy in Zionist circles which has aroused bitter partisanship in the organized movement, and a serious uneasiness among those whose sympathies are with the movement, but whose information is limited.

One of the immediate and direct results of the controversy has been a change in the leadership of the American Zionist Emergency Council, formerly headed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Abba Silver as co-chairmen. Both simultaneously resigned their offices, and a new election followed, Dr. Wise thereby remaining as sole chairman.

Subsequently, the two statements printed herewith were issued by their respective authors. The editors of the Review look upon the controversy dealt with in these statements as a matter of prime importance to the present functioning, and, indeed, to the future well-being, of the entire Zionist movement in America. Great issues of policy are involved which need the understanding of all Zionists; for this reason both statements are printed in their entirety, so that such opinions as our readers may form shall be based at least on a knowledge of the positions adopted by both sides to the controversy.

The Editors

Statement of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

HAVE BEEN requested to comment on the statements issued by Dr. Israel Goldstein which purport to give the facts connected with the controversy which developed in the American Zionist Emergency Council. Dr. Goldstein's facts suffer from deft distortions, twists and significant omissions, which give a false and misleading account of what actually transpired.

(1) Dr. Goldstein states that at a meeting of the Emergency Council on October 30, it was unanimously decided not to press for the resolutions unless and until the preliminary approval of the Executive branch of the Government shall have been secured. No such decision was taken by the Emergency Council on October 30. In fact no decisions whatsoever were taken at that meeting. The minutes of the meeting quote me as saying: "We will not go ahead with the resolution without fully canvassing the situation. If the answer from the State Department is at all vague, I would not recommend proceeding with it." This precaution was suggested not out of a desire not to offend the State Department or the President, but in order to protect ourselves against the kind of surprise which was jumped on us last Spring. The Council wanted to make doubly sure before it moved; but no one really expected any opposition in view of all that had transpired in the preceding months.

At that same meeting I reported (and I quote from the minutes of the meeting) "that in anticipation of the reconsideration of the resolution when Congress reconvenes, the Emergency Council has been engaged in stimulating afresh the interest of the members of the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees. The local emergency committees in communities in which these members resided had been asked to approach them again and to bring them up to date on recent developments and to suggest that early action on the resolution, when Congress reconvenes, would

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Dr. Goldstein's Statement

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March had convinced the Emergency Council of the unwisdom of pressing for the passage of the resolutions without the consent and approval of the Department of State.

The Emergency Council held two later meetings, devoted to the same subject. At a meeting on November 9, 1944, it discussed again whether or not the resolutions should be pressed, and again all those present, representing all parties, and including the chairman of the Executive Committee, Dr. Silver, unanimously reaffirmed its previous decision. It was then decided to interview the Secretary of State for the purpose of obtaining the approval of the executive branch which could be transmitted to the committees of the House and Senate. A committee, including Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver was appointed to visit the Secretary of State. This was done shortly thereafter, and, after a few days had elapsed, they were informed that the executive branch of the Government made the request "to leave the matter pending a little while longer."

All this was reported to the Emergency Council on November 21, 1944, and again there was unanimous concurrence, including Dr. Silver, not to press for the passage of the resolutions, but to continue to utilize every effort to secure executive approval.

On November 27, six days after the above-mentioned meeting of the Emergency Council, Dr. Silver as chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council, without the knowledge or authorization from that body and contrary to its decision, wrote an official communication to Representative Sol Bloom, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in which he said: "As chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council I urge prompt action on the Palestine Resolution . . ." (Mr. Bloom had demanded a written request from Dr. Silver in order to be sure that it was an official request.)

Following the receipt of this communication Mr. Bloom convened the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on November 30 a resolution was reported out favorably, in which, however, the word

"Jewish" was omitted before "Commonwealth" and the word "ultimately" was retained.

To many Zionists here and especially in Palestine this watered-down resolution which Mr. Lessing Rosenwald found it impossible to approve, was highly unsatisfactory. It was certainly anything but "militant."

When the matter came subsequently before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, the president of the ZOA, seeing that we had become involved in this situation against the decision of the Emergency Council, and deeming it necessary that at least the Senate resolution should be a proper Zionist resolution, sent a telegram to the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in which it was urged that the word "Jewish" be retained before the word "Commonwealth" and the word "ultimately" be removed.

On Thursday, December 7, Dr. Stephen S. Wise convoked a meeting of the whole Emergency Council. Again at this session a decision was made that under the circumstances it would be a mistake to press the resolutions. A delegation, consisting of Mrs. Judith Epstein, president of Hadassah, Dr. Wolf Gold, of the Mizrachi Organization of America, Dr. Chaim Greenberg of the Poale Zion and Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, were appointed to proceed to Washington and to attempt to persuade Dr. Silver to abide by the decisions of the Emergency Council. But to no avail.

The subsequent appearance of Secretary of State Stettinius before the Senate committee and the statement which he issued brought about the deferment of the Palestine Resolution.

It was as a result of all this that Dr. Wise felt compelled to offer his resignation as chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, as a protest against the arbitrary action of one of the officers of the council contrary to the expressed will of the council and to the hurt of "our sacred cause."

These are the salient facts of the situation which has caused considerable agitation, speculation and criticism.

An issue is now being raised of "bold

political action" versus "timidity." This issue is a patent attempt to cover up the question of why an officer of the Emergency Council acted contrary to its decisions in which he himself shared. Why was not the issue of "timidity" versus "boldness" presented at the meetings of the Emergency Council of October 30 and November 21? Why were the voices which are now heard so stridently not raised at that time in favor of going forward in defiance of the State Department? Why did Dr. Silver, in fact, say at that time that if the answer of the State department was vague, we should not go forward?

The one redeeming circumstance of this entire unfortunate situation is that Dr. Wise, chairman of the Emergency Council, by adhering to the decisions of that body remains a friendly contact with the President and the State Department. To maintain this friendly contact is essential to our cause.

On December 19 the ZOA Executive Committee by a vote of 18 to 4 adopted the following resolution:

"It is the sense of this meeting that on the basis of the facts as presented to us, Dr. Wise's resignation as a protest against Dr. Silver's action in contravention of the decisions of the Emergency Council is justified. We believe that Dr. Wise's resignation from the leadership of the Zionist movement in America would most seriously injure the interests of the movement, and therefore conditions must be created to enable Dr. Wise to continue as Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council. We leave it to our representatives on the Emergency Council to act in accordance with these views."

This resolution was re-affirmed at a subsequent meeting of the ZOA Executive after Dr. Silver's report to the Emergency Council had been heard.

The statement issued by the Emergency Council after its meeting on December 28 is one in which the ZOA fully shares. It is as follows:

"The American Zionist Emergency Council desires to make it clear that the controversy referred to in the public press does not involve any difference with respect to fundamental Zionist policy or maximal or minimal Zionist program, but is rather one of procedure, methods of implementation and the authority of

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be desirable. The results so far are gratifying."

Thus the Council, on October 30, was fully informed that continued activities in behalf of our resolution were going on and would continue in Washington and all over the country. It is false to suggest even by implication that the Emergency Council at its meeting on October 30 ordered all of our activities in behalf of the resolution to be discontinued. It merely directed that we explore the mind of the State Department on our resolution, and there was a consensus of opinion that if the State Department attitude was found to be negative, we would then not proceed with the resolutions. Until such time however activities in behalf of the resolution were not to be discontinued nor was word to go out that we were even considering a possible postponement.

Inquiries were accordingly made at the State Department, and at the meeting on November 21, Dr. Wise reported "that Mr. Stettinius had telephoned him and informed him that he had seen the President who urged that nothing be done about the bill at this time and that the matter be left in his hands a little while longer."

This, however, did not satisfy the members of the Emergency Council. Many felt that they *had made a mistake* in deciding to make inquiries at the State Department in the first place. We might have assumed that the withdrawal of the military objections, the party platforms which included Palestine planks and the statement of the President himself on October 15 were sufficient "green light" to go ahead.

At this meeting, and here again I quote from the minutes, "there followed a lengthy discussion, and it was finally decided that efforts be made once more to obtain clearance from the President through Senator Wagner, and perhaps others. It was agreed to leave it to Dr. Wise, Dr. Silver and Mr. Shulman to take the necessary action with regard to an approach to the President." There was no other action taken at this meeting.

In other words, the Emergency Council, upon second thought, was *not satisfied to have the resolution shelved just because the State Department and the President had indicated their objection to the resolution*. They were not content to

let it go at that. They wanted persuasive influence to be brought to bear upon the Administration to change its mind.

Dr. Wise strenuously objected to this line of procedure. He did not want the President "annoyed" by our insistence and our persuasion. He reluctantly yielded to the pressure of the Council and thereafter, far from using his energies vigorously to persuade the Secretary of State and the President, he seriously interfered with me in carrying out the clear mandate of the Council.

(2) Dr. Goldstein forgets to mention the fact which I made known to the Council that the day following the November 21 meeting, I wired Dr. Wise urging him to get in touch with Congressman Bloom to see the President. Dr. Wise never replied to this telegram.

(3) No one interested in the passage of the bill ever saw the President on the resolution at that time or since. He was out of Washington. All our information has come through Mr. Stettinius. The first and the only personal contact with Mr. Stettinius to carry out the wishes of the Council could not be made before December 4. It was made by Senator Wagner and myself. Senator Wagner was not in Washington before the preceding Tuesday and our appointment could not be made before the following Monday.

(4) But by December 4 the Senate Foreign Relations Committee *had already met and had considered our resolution*. In fact, at the request of Senator Taft, our Palestine Resolution was to have been considered by the Committee on November 22, but out of courtesy to Senator Wagner who was out of the city, the consideration of our resolution by the committee was postponed to November 29. I reported at the meeting of our Council on November 21 that such meeting of the Senate Committee had been scheduled for the next day, but had been postponed to the 29th.

Senator Taft requested consideration of the resolution on his own initiative. He was neither requested nor urged by me. Already on November 11 (please note the date) Senator Taft wrote me: "I have had to delay my return to Washington

Dr. Silver's Statement

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until Thursday, but I hope we can proceed with the Palestine Resolution immediately." He was one of the co-sponsors of the resolution. He had resented the postponement of the resolution last Spring. It was he who had kept after the military until he obtained the letter from Secretary of War Stimson withdrawing their objections. As soon as Congress reconvened, he began pressing for his resolution, just as we all did, including the delegates at the Convention of the ZOA at Atlantic City.

(5) Dr. Goldstein suggests that if I had not brought pressure on Congressman Bloom to take the matter up with his committee no action whatsoever would have been taken in Congress. I did not arrive in Washington until November 27. By that time a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as I indicated above, had already been set for November 29, and the Senate Committee was prepared to act favorably on our resolution at that meeting. It has been suggested that I should have asked the committee to defer action. Why? *This was certainly not my mission nor mandate in Washington.* I was there to see whether I could persuade the State Department and the President to withdraw their objections to the passage of the resolution. Failing in that, the Council would then have to decide what to do, since the first report of the President's disapproval did not close the matter as far as the Council was concerned. I have not yet had the opportunity to contact either the State Department or the President. I was not to see Mr. Stettinius until December 4. Until I had had the chance to persuade them and failed, I could not go, nor did the Council obligate me to go, to the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and ask them, many of whom had been critical of the State Department's intervention and of the President's action last Spring, to postpone action on our Palestine Resolution for which the Jews of America had so persistently pressed up to the very last. We were not pressing for the resolution. The pressure came from the Senate Committee itself which was so much inter-

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Dr. Goldstein's Statement

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its officers. The American Zionist Emergency Council will go forward with continued vigor and determination for the realization of its objectives—unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine, full opportunity for Jewish colonization and the reconstitution of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth. For this it will seek the active support of the Executive and Legislative branches of the U. S. Government and the good will of the American people."

The entire set of circumstances is most regrettable. We do not underestimate Dr. Silver's important services to the Zionist movement during the past 14 months and before. He has splendid achievements to his credit during his incumbancy of the office as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Emergency Council. This, however, does not obscure the regrettable events of recent weeks and his responsibility for them.

So far as ZOA cooperation with Emergency Council is concerned the record is clear. The ZOA enabled the Emergency Council upon its reorganization to secure a budget of \$500,000 for the year which was no mean factor in the success of the work. The ZOA turned over to the Emergency Council its leading people in the local communities for the public relations work. The ZOA leadership has rendered conspicuous service in the hearings of the House Foreign Affairs Committee last February and March and in securing the inclusion of the Palestine plank in the Democratic platform, and President Roosevelt's historic declaration to the Zionist Convention in Atlantic City. The leaders of the ZOA have fulfilled every assignment which has been given to them by the Emergency Council. The ZOA will continue to give the Emergency Council its fullest cooperation. The ZOA membership, however, would expect its leaders and representatives to retain the right to express honest and conscientious judgment on questions as they arise—always abiding, of course, by the will of the majority. And the ZOA representatives will continue to insist on discipline as the fundamental basis of any democratically organized constituency.

Where are we left now? There is hope

that at the next session of Congress, as the war draws closer to its end, the objections of the State Department may be withdrawn and the Palestine Resolution in improved wording, may go through with virtual unanimity. There is also a possibility that President Roosevelt may himself find a way in consultation with the heads of other Governments to give a sign of the fulfillment of his pledge and that of the two parties in their platforms. In all this the good will of the President is essential.

What needs to be borne in mind by all of us Zionists is that as important as are the Congress Resolutions, it is even more important to secure practical help from our Government and its allies in shaping the future of Palestine and in bringing immigrants into Palestine in the immediate future, and preparing Palestine to absorb mass Jewish immigration after the war. Here, too, the President's good will and friendship could be of crucial helpfulness—in addition to his potential aid in securing the proclamation of a Jewish Commonwealth.

Before us Zionists there is now a clear challenge. We shall not go very far by exhausting ourselves with internal dissensions. These will only give aid and comfort to our enemies. We must proceed with our work. It would be tragic if as a result of agitation our tempo of progress should be altered.

1. *We must be on the alert in our public relations responsibilities, continuing to educate American public opinion in favor of the Zionist program, and prepared to make the necessary impact upon Congress as soon as the time is opportune;*

2. *We must increase ZOA membership steadily and substantially because the strength of the Zionist movement is judged by its core, which is its membership;*

3. *We must work harder than ever for the national funds which build the foundations for the Jewish Commonwealth;*

4. *We must, without delay, raise the ZOA Expansion Fund which is to enable our organization to grow in scope, content and influence.*

No Zionist district worthy of its name will permit itself to be satisfied merely with its status quo. A movement must move *forward*, else it recedes.

All these signs of progress must be registered immediately. Let us prove by our renewed zeal that we are more than fair-weather Zionists, that we know how to meet a challenge. The months immediately ahead must be our most active in all directions.

Kadimah—Forward.

It Is Our Palestine

By OSCAR LEONARD

Author of "Americans All"

THE land was ours before we were the land's,"
The Lord had given it unto our fathers.
"Unto thy seed will I give this land,"
And it was our land, we tilled it for centuries.

From it came forth the Law—which is the Law
For nations who hold human dignity high.

The land was ours even when driven from it.

Two thousand years we dreamed of it and yearned for it.
We prayed for its restoration, for its second birth.

We spent the life of our youth without stint—

Spent it to heal the land of the sores, the hurts

Strangers had inflicted upon our land.

In healing the land we healed our hurt souls.

And our land responded as one responds to tenderness.

When it was parched and thirsty we brought water,

When it was famished we nurtured it with our blood.

The land yearned for us as we yearned for it.

For Palestine was ours before we were the land's.

ested in the Palestine Resolution that it met on four successive occasions to consider it and it insisted time and again on approving our resolution in spite of two personal appearances before it made by the Secretary of State and in spite of other pressure brought by the Administration against it. Even when the resolution was finally postponed as a result of the persistent pressure from the State Department and the President, two-thirds of the members of the Senate Committee signed a round robin in which they stated that they would have voted for the resolution were it not for this insistence of the State Department and the President.

Congressman Bloom had publicly announced right after the President's statement of October 15 that he would summon a meeting of his committee the day after Congress reconvened. He was eager to move forward. I called on him for the purpose of getting him to contact the President and State Department. He did not feel that the State Department had to be consulted about it. It was none of its business, he stated. Prior to my arrival in Washington, and in anticipation of the meeting of his committee, he had had printed as a House document, the Palestine endorsements made by the four hundred congressmen and senators which appeared in the volume, "America and Palestine," recently published by the Emergency Council. It was Congressman Bloom's own idea and all credit is due him for it. Congressman Bloom was somewhat concerned with the fact that he might be blamed if he moved forward and the resolution failed of passage in his committee. He wanted us to share in the responsibility for moving ahead. I reassured him on that score, and at his request, I wrote him a letter following our interview in which I backed him up. Congressman Bloom convoked his committee on November 29, the very day on which the Senate Committee met to consider our resolution. Bloom was undoubtedly encouraged to move forward rapidly by the fact that the Senate Committee had scheduled a meeting on November 29 and was expected to act favorably on the resolution.

(6) When we finally got to Stettinius on December 4—and here Dr. Goldstein's memory again conveniently fails him—we were shown, right at the out-

set, that fatal telegram of Dr. Wise which was dispatched without the knowledge of either Senator Wagner or myself and without any authorization from the Council on the very eve of our interview, a telegram which was calculated to nullify the effectiveness of our mission to the Secretary of State. This telegram which in so many words told the Secretary of State, and through him the President, that Dr. Wise and many of his associates would readily and without protest accept their decision with reference to the resolution, broke the back of the entire effort which the Council had

Dr. Silver's Statement

[Continued from page 7]

resolved to make in order to change the mind of the State Department and of the President. Our only hope lay in persuading Mr. Stettinius, and through him, the President, that the entire Zionist Movement and the entire Jewish people of America were solidly united in demanding action on the resolution which had been hanging fire for over ten months, and that their hopes, which had been raised so high by all that had transpired during the year, would be dashed to the ground if it became known that the President insisted on a second deferment.

[Continued on next page]

THE ANCIENT MOUNTAIN JEWS OF RUSSIA

By ABRAM KHAVIN*

BURIED deep in the Caucasus, in the territory of the Daghestan Soviet Republic, there exists an ancient Jewish community of which comparatively little is known. Referred to usually as the "mountain Jews," these people have been living in the Caucasus for more than 2,000 years, and, according to legend, are descendants of the Israelites led into captivity by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar.

Recently, I had occasion to visit the Daghestan Republic, and there I met many of these mountain Jews. Although they look very much like their Moslem neighbors, they can be distinguished by their biblical names, such as Hannah, Leah, Rachel, Miriam.

Interestingly enough, although they have had little contact with European Jewry, they consider themselves an integral part of world Jewry and were eager for news of the life and culture of the Russian Jews in the European part of the U.S.S.R.

They showered me with questions about what has been happening to the Jews in the newly liberated territories. Leah Khandukayeva, a superintendent in the famous Buinaksk Cannery, said to me: "Although we speak different languages,

* Through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

we consider ourselves to be flesh and blood of the Jewish people."

Discussing the present life of the mountain Jews, who lived in indescribable poverty and ignorance before the Revolution, she cited as an example a prosperous collective nearby, almost wholly composed of mountain Jews, and also the many Jews employed in the cannery, whose products are sought for throughout the Soviet Union. Up to ten or fifteen years ago few could be found in industry.

In the past quarter-century the mountain Jews have also developed their own intelligentsia, and Leah Khandukayeva mentioned the names of a number of her brethren in Buinaksk who are highly respected physicians, journalists and technical experts. With pride, she told me also how valorously her tribesmen were fighting on the various battlefronts.

In the last three years many Jews from Bessarabia, Odessa, the Crimea and other sections of Russia have come to Daghestan for refuge. Some of them settled in the town of Buinaksk and have proven a great asset to its industries. The refugees were welcomed by the people of all nationalities residing in the Caucasus, but a particularly warm reception was given them by the mountain Jews, who gladly shared their homes and food with them.

Dr. Wise's telegram which was sent from Pittsburgh at the time of the sessions of the American Jewish Conference, and presumably with the knowledge of Dr. Goldstein, deliberately wrecked this effort and torpedoed the resolution.

(7) Dr. Goldstein has another serious lapse of memory. On December 5, he sent the following telegram to every member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "We earnestly urge you report out favorably Palestine Resolution for adoption by present Congress. . . Your Committee's favorable action would be deeply appreciated as fulfillment President's magnificent message the Zionist Organization of America and overwhelming American opinion as expressed recently in both party platforms."

Why did Mr. Goldstein violate the "unanimous decision" of the Emergency Council in urging Senators to act on the resolution when he knew full well that no "green light" had been given? If Dr. Silver is guilty of a breach of discipline, what about Dr. Goldstein? But the gentleman was playing safe. If the resolution passed he would share in the credit. If it failed—why, he would see to it that the failure would all be blamed on Dr. Silver.

And having sent this telegram, why did he appear in Washington forty-eight hours later to urge the same Senators not to pass the resolution?

And having come to Washington to persuade the Senators not to pass the resolution, why did he permit himself to be persuaded by me *not to carry out his mission*? Instead, he and the other members of the committee went to Stettinius to tell him that the Zionists were *not* pressing for the resolution but that the pressure came from the Senate Committee itself (which, of course, was the truth). Is Dr. Goldstein unwilling ever to assume responsibility for what he does, or says, or writes? Is the fault always that of someone else?

(8) Dr. Goldstein again has a convenient lapse of memory when he fails to mention that at the Executive of the Emergency Council which met in Washington on Monday morning, December 11 (and which by the way was the only authorized meeting of the Emergency Council since the meeting on November 21—the other meetings of December 7 and 9 being rump meetings called by Dr.

Wise in contravention of the clear provisions of the constitution) it was agreed that *nothing be done to interfere with the passage of the resolution* on which the Foreign Affairs Committee was to act that very afternoon, but instead Mr. Stettinius should be asked to issue a statement that his appearance before the Senate Committee did not indicate a change of attitude on the part of the President. Nothing was to be said to Mr. Stettinius *about deferring the Palestine Resolution*. Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldstein concurred on this, and I joined in the delegation to Mr. Stettinius with that understanding and *only on that basis*.

(9) Dr. Goldstein stated that the resolution which was approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee was regarded by many Zionists here and especially in Palestine as a "watered-down" resolution

because the word "Jewish" was omitted before "Commonwealth" and the word "ultimately" was retained. How, then is one to account for the fact that the presidents of Hadassah, Mizrachi and the Poale Zion, as well as Mr. Lipsky of the Jewish Agency Executive, hailed the resolution in public statements? Dr. Wise told Congressman Bloom and me on the very day that it was voted that it was "a very good resolution." The Jewish press likewise welcomed it heartily, and the American Jewish Conference, meeting in Pittsburgh, acclaimed it.

It might be in point here to recall that at the Hearings before the Committee on Foreign Affairs—on February 8—Dr. Goldstein was asked by Congressman Schiffler: "You do not propose immediately to have a Commonwealth?" To

[Continued on next page]

LETTER FROM THE WAR FRONT TO THE HOME FRONT

This important and moving letter was sent to the Center Sisterhood by a former writer for PM, now with the Psychological Warfare Branch, Allied Force Headquarters.

By Leo J. Margolin

I WANT to extend to you and the members of the Sisterhood my heartfelt thanks for remembering me with a holiday package.

As a journalist I feel it is my duty to try and interpret for the folks back home the feelings of the American soldiers with whom I eat, sleep and work. I am more fortunate than the average soldier because my work takes me back at regular intervals to civilization, which, to the average soldier, means cooked meals, a real bed with white sheets, and different faces, preferably the faces of civilians—even Italian civilians.

The greatest fear of the soldier on the front is not death. We do not fear for the courage of our men. They don't want to die, but they are not afraid to die. Their biggest fear is that the people back home have forgotten them. That's why mail from home and packages—packages such as yours—are important, so terribly, terribly urgent.

You would think that war, even static war, is exciting enough for any human being. Yet, the biggest thrill any soldier can get is a letter and/or a package from home, or close to home. I have seen boys who have fought and killed the enemy for 56 hours at a stretch suddenly become rejuvenated at a letter from home, or a package which had something from home. What is in the package is of secondary importance; the momentous thing is that the package is a symbol to him that he has *not* been forgotten. Mail from home is the best morale builder in the army. So, although our women can't fight alongside their men, they can do the next best thing: remember their men, and never let their men feel that they've been forgotten for a single moment.

I am asked by my friends time and again when the war in Europe will be over. I can only tell you and the members of the Sisterhood this: please don't look for any miracles to end this war. The shooting in Europe will be over only when we have killed so many Germans that there won't be enough of them left to match our numbers. And that won't be for some time.

And so again my sincere thanks and my best regards to my friends in the Center.

which Dr. Goldstein replied: "No; we could not propose it as an immediate step, because we realize there would have to be a Jewish majority in the land before we could act for the implementation of a Commonwealth, and the achievement of a Jewish majority will undoubtedly take some time." (See p. 119 of the Hearings.)

(10) Dr. Goldstein is guilty of a distortion when he states that at the final meeting of the Emergency Council, where I announced my resignation, I asked to be made the sole leader in the Zionist movement in America with absolute unconditional power. "When this condition was not agreed on," states Dr. Goldstein, I "handed in my resignation." There is not a scintilla of truth in all this. I stated at the meeting that the present set-up of dual or multiple leadership in the Council has led to serious conflicts in the past and had culminated in the present crisis. I advised a re-organization of the Emergency Council with an eye towards the elimination of conflicting leadership and the centralization of authority. In connection with that, I read at great length a letter which I wrote to Dr. Wise in 1943 at the time when he and Dr. Weizmann asked me to take over the leadership of the political work of our movement. In that letter I stated that if Dr. Wise wished to continue as the active political leader of the movement, no one was thinking of supplanting him. I assumed that he wished to be relieved of it. "If now you feel that you wish to retain that office, not in an honorary but in an active capacity, I wish you would let me know definitely and in making my reply I will say that Dr. Wise is head of the political work of the Emergency Council and there is no need for drafting me or anyone else."

Dr. Wise knew exactly under what conditions I assumed the office at his and Dr. Weizmann's urging. The purpose was to eliminate the very unfortunate overlapping and cross-purposes in our political work which brought the Emergency Council to bankruptcy two years ago. My resignation, as everyone knows, was not prompted, as Dr. Goldstein asserts, by the refusal of the Emergency Council to accept my suggestions for re-organization. These suggestions were not even considered at the meeting and have not yet been acted upon. It was a motion

to request *all* the officers of the Emergency Council to resign, a motion which the Council refused to table, which called forth my resignation.

(11) Dr. Goldstein refers to a memorandum which Dr. Nahum Goldmann sent me purporting to be a report of what the Secretary of State had told him and Dr. Wise in reply to the request of the Council to issue the statement which is referred to above. I was a member of the committee which called upon Mr. Stettinius to request that statement. The reply of Mr. Stettinius was not given in writing to the Council, but orally to Dr. Goldmann and Dr. Wise who happened to be calling on the Secretary of State on another mission. Dr. Goldmann sent me the following memorandum a few days later:

"Mr. Stettinius called Dr. Wise and me into his room before meeting with the delegation. He told us that he had been in touch with the President about the statement which we had suggested he should issue. He said that the President was in a very bad mood because we had gone ahead with the Resolution and instead of acquiescing in his request to hold the matter up for the time being, had sought to bring pressure to bear through the Senate. He felt that the Zionists had lost confidence in him, and Mr. Stettinius said that in the circumstances it was difficult to discuss such questions with him at this time. It would not be possible for him (Mr. S.) to issue the letter suggested."

I was surprised and disturbed by this

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INSIDE NEWS OF ZIONISM

By BORIS SMOLAR

THE Wise-Silver conflict is causing a good deal of commotion not only in this country, but also in Palestine. Someone sent word to Palestine that the Silverites intend to organize a new Zionist party in America. The Jews in Palestine, although themselves split into altogether too many groups and parties, would not like to see the Zionist Organization of America broken up when American Zionists have to fulfill a mission of vital importance to Palestine's future.

It seems that there is, for the time being, no basis for fearing that the pro-Silver members of the ZOA will form a party of their own. But the possibility exists that they may insist upon calling an extraordinary convention of the ZOA to air their grievances. And it looks as if both sides are preparing to tour the country in order to present their viewpoints to the membership in the provincial cities.

It is assumed that the rift within the American Zionist movement will not end before Dr. Weizmann reaches the United States. It is expected that he will be here in March. Many leading Zionists consider him the only person able to restore unity.

* * *

It was quite a surprise to many to read that Chaim Greenberg, the much-respected Zionist-Laborite leader, was cho-

sen chairman of the executive of the Zionist Emergency Council, replacing Dr. Silver. The surprise was due to the fact that the Zionist-Laborite members of the Council were all for the re-election of Dr. Silver. Greenberg was the exception, and even submitted his resignation because he did not see eye to eye with the other members of his party in the Council. It was originally indicated that the post of chairman of the executive would be offered to Louis Lipsky.

* * *

Behind President Roosevelt's desire to personally handle the Palestine issue, without any action by Congress, is the President's hope that he may soon meet with Ibn Saud, the ruler of Saudi Arabia and strongest figure in the Arab world. President Roosevelt hopes that in a person-to-person talk with Ibn Saud he may succeed in convincing him of the necessity of compromising with the Zionist demands for Palestine. Once Ibn Saud is won over, any other Arab opposition would not matter.

In Washington it is pointed out that Palestine is definitely one of the territories whose fate will be considered not only by Britain, but by the Allies, and that no decision with regard to Palestine will be taken without consulting Jews and Arabs.

report for in my two previous contacts with Mr. Stettinius there was no indication whatsoever given that the President was in a very bad mood or that he felt that the Zionists had lost confidence in him. Dr. Goldmann did not treat that "information" as confidential. He conveyed this "information" to newspapermen in New York. A panic mood was being fostered among our Zionist leaders with the design—as later events showed—to bring about my resignation.

In preparation for my official report to the Emergency Council, which was to be given on December 20, and in order not to do any injustice either to the Secretary of State or to the President, I made inquiries as to whether this memorandum of Dr. Goldmann correctly represented what Mr. Stettinius had said, and whether perhaps he had been misquoted, or misunderstood.

I received a reply to the effect that Dr. Goldmann's memorandum "was not quite in accordance with the Secretary's record." The Secretary told Dr. Wise that he had been in touch with the President as he had offered to do regarding the statement which Dr. Wise and Dr. Silver had requested him to make. The reaction that Mr. Stettinius obtained was that the President felt that this group should have confidence in his handling of the matter and that it would not be appropriate for Mr. Stettinius to issue the statement. Mr. Stettinius asked Dr. Wise if he would be good enough to give this information to Dr. Silver."

This, of course, is a radically different version from that of Dr. Goldmann's. There is nothing here about the President being in a very bad mood, or feeling that the Zionists had lost confidence in him. But Rabbi Goldstein, far from being shocked at Dr. Goldmann's amazing misquotation of a most critical report and far from regarding it as something "scandalous," denounces rather my fact-finding inquiry as something "scandalous". . .

(12) There are many other things which this Rabbi chooses to forget. Already at the Zionist Convention in Atlantic City he and his little cabal were preparing the way for my elimination. The Resolutions Committee of the Convention had prepared a resolution which wholeheartedly endorsed my administration and called for a continuation of the dynamic and successful progress of the

Emergency Council "under the present leadership." At a subsequent meeting, Dr. Goldstein demanded the elimination of the words "under the present leadership." He made that request, he said, in the name of Dr. Wise with whom he had spoken by telephone in New York. I stated, of course, that as far as I was concerned, I intended to hold my office not a single day longer than the Emergency Council wished me to, and that, of course, I would agree to the elimination of the words "under the present leadership."

The ZOA Administration had a difficult time at the plenary session of the Convention to put through the resolution without the words, "under the present leadership." I personally had to step forward and beg the delegates to agree to the omission of those words. But I and my friends knew all along what was in the mind of Dr. Goldstein and his clique.

(13) Many will recall the fight which raged at the ZOA Convention in Atlantic City about my annual report which the administration was determined to schedule at the very end of the Convention when most of the delegates would have gone home, in order to make small change of it. Dr. Goldstein had to yield to the pressure from the delegates but the whole miserable affair was another result of the embittered and envenomed policy of undermining, belittling and discrediting which Dr. Goldstein and his friends had been carrying on throughout the year.

(14) The Rabbi has since carried out a successful purge of Silver adherents on the Executive of the ZOA and among the representatives of the ZOA on the Emergency Council. His efficiency in perfecting his political machine should be the envy of Tammany Hall.

(15) Dr. Goldstein has always resented the Emergency Council. He has regarded it as a competing institution with the ZOA and as interfering with his prerogatives as President of the ZOA. He has frequently complained that he is not being sent often enough to Washington on missions for the Emergency Council. He has been saddened by the fact that the successes of the Emergency Council have eclipsed his achievements as President of the ZOA, and have robbed him of the publicity which he so avidly craves.

HONOR ROLL

The following is an additional list of members, children and grandchildren of Center members serving with the United States armed forces. The list includes names received up to the time of going to press.

**Canick, Moses Leon, Ensign
Schenkman, Harry, Capt.**



The following is a list of promotions in rank:

**Goldberg, Ephraim, T/5
Goldsmith, Philip, Sp. V.
3/cl P.O.
Horowitz, Nathaniel, Cpl.
Jaffe, Albert, Lt. J.G.
Koven, Leo, Capt.
Kugel, Joseph, Major
Lerner, Seymour D., S 1/c
Lieberman, Alfred L., Cpl.
Rogoff, Aaron C., Sgt.
Shapiro, Edward, Sgt.**

THERE is no documentary evidence to show that Lincoln had any direct contact with Jews prior to his election to the Presidency. Some authorities suggest that Lincoln made the acquaintance of some Jewish pioneers in the Middle West, and that some of them were even frequent callers at his home. It is, however, a well established fact that he had a considerable number of Jews among his political friends who played an active part during the presidential campaign, and his election was generally welcomed by the Jewish community.

President Lincoln's administration was, unfortunately, marked by two incidents affecting the Jews as a body: the question of the appointment of a Jewish Chaplain in 1861-62, and the proposed expulsion of the Jews from within the lines of General Grant's army in 1862-63.

When the Civil War broke out, Congress passed an act which provided that each regiment should have a chaplain, to be appointed by the commander "on a vote of the field officers and company." This act further provided that "Chaplains must be regularly ordained ministers of some Christian denomination."

This gave rise to widespread comment, and from all parts of the country there arose a demand that Congress should recognize the privilege of the citizens to worship "under leaders of their own faith and be afforded an opportunity to do so." The Board of Delegates of American Israelites petitioned to Congress stating that the act was "prejudicial discrimination against a patriotic class of citizens on account of their religious belief." At the same time the Board addressed a letter to the President urging the appointment of a Jewish chaplain to each of the military departments. Simultaneously, Rev. Arnold Fischel, rabbi of the Congregation Shearith Israel, in New York, made an application for a commission as chaplain in a regiment whose rank and file were largely Jewish soldiers. The Secretary of War denied his application because of the provision made by Act of Congress. Dr. Fischel subsequently went to Washington to discuss the situation with the President. Unable to see him, Lincoln wrote to him: "I shall try to have a new law broad enough to cover what is desired by you in behalf of the Israelites." On March 21, 1862, the Act

was finally amended so as to authorize the employment of chaplains "one or more of which shall be of the Catholic, Protestant or Jewish religion." Following the passage of the amendment, President Lincoln appointed Rabbi Jacob Frankel, of Philadelphia, Rabbi B. N. Gotthelf, of Louisville, and Rabbi Ferdinand Sarner, of New York, hospital chaplains.

The second and more serious incident took place during General Grant's advance into the South as commander of the Union army. He seemed to have been troubled by merchants whom he accused of trading with the enemy. General Grant then committed a blunder which he most probably regretted in later years. In November, 1862, Grant issued instructions "to refuse all permits to come South . . . the Israelites especially should be excluded and not be permitted to travel on the railroad southward from any point."

"The Jews," said he, "seem to be a privileged class that can travel anywhere . . . If not permitted to buy cotton themselves, they will act as agents for someone else." The easiest way out, therefore, was the expulsion of the Jews from that section, hence his famous General Order No. 11, issued on December 17, 1862. This order states that "the Jews as a class were violators of every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department . . . are hereby expelled from the department within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order."

The issuance of the order brought a storm of protest from Jews and non-Jews alike. Cincinnati and Paducah became the storm centers mainly because of their proximity to Grant's field of operation. Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise urged that immediate action be demanded from the President, while other Jewish leaders insisted that the President compel Grant to apologize or dismiss him from service. Two delegations, one from Cincinnati, headed by Rabbi Wise, and the other from Paducah, headed by Cesar Kaskel, went to Washington. The delegation from Paducah was accompanied by Representative Curley of Ohio. On learning the

LINCOLN AND THE JEWS

By LEO SHPALL

object of their visit, the President remarked:

"And so the children of Israel were driven from the happy land of Canaan?" "Yes," replied Kaskel, "and that is why we have come unto Father Abraham's bosom, asking protection." "And this protection they shall have at once," said Lincoln, and immediately wrote a revocation of the order. When the second delegation, headed by Rabbi Wise, learned of Kaskel's success, its members expressed their thanks to the President for his prompt action. Thanks to Lincoln a great catastrophe for the Jews of this country was avoided.

Jews throughout the country shared in the public grief following the assassination of Lincoln. All the national Jewish organizations sent delegations to the funeral, and memorial services were held in all the synagogues. They saw in him a man of great character who devoted his life to the ideal of the preservation of national unity.

THE AMERICAN ARAB PRESS AND THE PALESTINE RESOLUTION

REPORTING that "Zionism has suffered a grave blow in Washington," the Arab press in the United States expresses gratification at the fact that the State Department prevented passage of the Palestine Resolution by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The *Meraat-Ul-Gharb*, a New York Arab paper, attributes the shelving of the resolution to protests from Arabs throughout the country "who are exerting every pressure to defeat Zionism and its evil machinery."

The *Al-Bayan*, a Washington paper, criticizes the House Foreign Affairs Committee for passing the Palestine Resolution. "This is not the first time such a resolution has been put through by Rep. Sol Bloom and his colleague, Emanuel Celler," the paper writes. "Luckily, they have been stopped by logic and reason—and this time by the State Department."

Maimonides' Mishneh Torah. Abridged Edition. Edited, Vocalized and Annotated by Dr. Paltiel Birnbaum. Hebrew Publishing Co., New York.

MOSES MAIMONIDES, or as he is popularly termed *Rambam*, was not only the greatest Jewish philosopher, but also the greatest and most popular codifier of Jewish law. The *Mishneh Torah* (the Second Torah), or as it is also known *Yad Ha-Hazakah* (the Strong Hand), which Maimonides completed in 1180, was immediately accepted by the Jews in all lands as the authoritative compilation of all Jewish law from the Bible to their own day. It is written in a clear and pure Hebrew style, and all the laws are arranged in a remarkably systematic manner. It soon won a place next to the Talmud itself, and all Jewish students delighted in the study of this great work.

Alas, today the *Mishneh Torah* is known only to Rabbis—and to those Rabbis interested in Rabbinic law. As the editor of this volume says in his Foreword, "It is indeed very unfortunate that this classical work has been neglected in Jewish education so that many a student of Jewish lore knows little beyond its name."

Many years ago, Bialik made strenuous efforts to get some scholars to undertake the editing of a popular edition of this work "to revive the effectiveness of this great book and make its influence prevail on all the Jewish people of our time." Dr. Birnbaum has accomplished this task, and has accomplished it in most commendable fashion. He has made a fine selection of important sections in all the fourteen books which comprise this work. To make it more useful to the average Hebrew student or reader, he vocalized the text, and appended translations and explanations in English of difficult words and phrases. This volume should now be made one of the important texts for study in all the advanced classes in our Hebrew schools, as well as in all our institutes and academies. Dr. Birnbaum deserves a hearty *Y'asher Ko'ach* for a work which will enable the average intelligent Jew to get better acquainted with one of the greatest classics in all our literature.

Shirei Yehuda Halevi, Selected Liturgical and Secular Poems of Yehuda Halevi. Edited and annotated by Dr. Simon Bernstein. Ogen Publishing House, New York.

No poet since Bible days has so influenced the religious and cultural life of the Jewish people as has this outstanding figure of the golden era in Spain, Yehuda Halevi. His poems have been incorporated in our liturgy. The deepest yearnings of the Jewish heart have been expressed in his words, which are repeated by Jews throughout the world on the most sacred day of the year, *Yom Kippur*, or on the most sorrowful day in the calendar, *Tishah b'Ab*.

Dr. Simon Bernstein, who has enriched our knowledge in the field of Hebrew poetry of medieval times, has now made all lovers of Hebrew verse his debtors in publishing this popular edition of Halevi's religious and secular poetry. Such an edition is particularly needed today, since most of the scholarly editions issued in Europe or in Palestine are out of print and impossible to secure.

This volume contains a brief but excellently written introduction which evaluates the qualities which have made these poems immortal. As Dr. Bernstein so well puts it, Halevi, in his poetry, expresses the soul of the Jew and the three great loves which filled the heart of the Jew—his love for his people, his love for Zion, and his love for God.

What makes this volume particularly useful is the fact that accompanying each poem are detailed explanatory notes, which help the reader to get a clearer understanding and a better appreciation of the poet's words.

The Histadrut Ivrit, or National Organization for Hebrew Culture, which sponsors the Ogen Publishing House, is deserving of great praise for having presented us with such a fine work. And Dr. Bernstein has added greater fame to a career already notable with a book which will give the Jews of America a new appreciation of the work of one of the greatest spiritual and literary luminaries in Jewish life.

NEW BOOKS

Reviewed by

DR. ISRAEL H. LEVINTHAL

"*Talpioth*," a Quarterly, dedicated to Jewish Law and Ethics. Edited by Samuel R. Mirsky, and associate, Samuel L. Sar.

THIS new venture in the field of Jewish scholarship should be given high praise and commendation. It is written in a fine Hebrew style, is well edited and offers a splendid medium for the literary products of scholars in the field of Rabbinic literature. The three issues which have thus far appeared reflect credit upon the editor and his associate, and have already made a deep impression upon all serious students of Hebrew lore.

In these days in particular, when all the important learned periodicals in European lands have ceased publication, it is good to see the appearance of a quarterly of such high standard to carry on the ideal of Jewish scholarly creativity in our land.

The Yeshivah College in New York, with which the editors of *Talpioth* are associated, and which serves as the headquarters for the quarterly, is to be congratulated for sponsoring such a splendid medium for the encouragement of Jewish contributions in the Hebrew language in this, the largest Jewish community in the world.

* * *

"*Americans All*," by Oscar Leonard. Behrman's Jewish Book House, New York.

THERE has been a long-felt dearth of good books on Jewish themes for our young. Every educator who deals with Jewish children has been concerned with this problem. Lately, a few fine juvenile books have been published, and their popularity proves how great the need is. One subject, however, has been altogether neglected, not only for the young but for the elders as well, and that is the role which the Jew has played in the making of America.

"*Americans All*" fills most adequately this two-fold need. The author, a well-known writer, whose articles appear fre-

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

THE Palestine Resolution, which has been a center of controversy in Zionist and non-Zionist circles for the past few months, was re-introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. James P. Geelan, Connecticut Democrat.

Although official Zionist circles refused to comment on the bill, pending a meeting of the American Zionist Emergency Council, it is not thought likely that they will press for action until the State Department reconsiders its opposition. The Geelan bill is identical with the measure introduced in the 78th Congress by Rep. Ranulf Compton, whom Geelan defeated.

★

DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress and a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, issued a statement denying certain charges against him made by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. Dr. Goldmann's statement reads:

"I see from the papers that Dr. Abba Hillel Silver has tried to drag me into his public controversy with other Zionist leaders here. I refuse, as I always did, to enter into any public controversy with Dr. Silver as I regard the publicity which he is giving to differences of opinion which have to be settled within the councils of the Zionist movement, as irresponsible and harmful to the Zionist cause. I merely wish to state that the various statements concerning me are absolutely incorrect and a distortion of the truth."

★

RABBI MEIR BERLIN, leader of the world Mizrachi organization, has resigned from the Jewish National Assembly and the Jewish National Council in protest against domination of Yishuv affairs by the Mapai, the Jewish labor party, it was announced in Jerusalem. Rabbi Berlin issued a statement declaring that "the

Mizrachi and the Poale Mizrachi have not received what was promised by the Mapai during five months of negotiations."

Meanwhile, the central committee of the Poale Mizrachi criticized recent statements by Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Moshe Shertok, charging that they were straying from the Biltmore policy, which calls for the immediate establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. It urged the return of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to the chairmanship of the American Zionist Emergency Council.

★

IN a tense courtroom in Cairo, jammed with policemen and soldiers, Ephraim Ben Zuri and Eliahu Khakim, Palestine terrorists, admitted that they had murdered Lord Moyne, British Minister of State in the Middle East, and pleaded guilty also to charges of killing Moyne's chauffeur and possessing illegal explosives.

Both of the boyish-looking defendants appeared extremely calm as they sat in the prisoners' box surrounded by guards, and heard the prosecutor demand the death penalty. The case was heard by a five-man military court and the youths convicted.

★

THE Jewish Labor Committee revealed officially that it has withdrawn from the American Jewish Conference because of the admission to the Conference of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order, which, the Labor Committee charged, is a Communist organization.

In a pamphlet issued to its members, the labor group stated that the Communists have attempted to demoralize Jewish labor organizations and injured Jewish interests. It indicated that it was willing to rejoin the conference if the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order were ousted.

THE Bulgarian Cabinet has approved a law providing for the return of certain categories of property seized from Jews by the former Nazi-dominated government.

★

THE Central Committee of Polish Jews, which is headed by Dr. Emil Sommerstein, a member of the pre-war Polish parliament and Zionist leader, will act as the representative of all Jews in Poland, it was announced over the Lublin radio. The committee consists of representatives of the Zionists, the Jewish Socialist Bund, the Workers Party and independents.

The broadcast said that the committee, in collaboration with the Association of Jewish Writers, will establish a "historical commission" to investigate war crimes against Jews. It also plans to set up a Jewish press agency, a Jewish publishing house and a commission to arrange for Yiddish radio broadcasts.

A pledge that there will be "no place in the revived democratic Poland for anti-Semitism" has been given by Gen. Michal Rola-Zymerski, Minister of National Defense in the new Provisional Government, in a letter to the Association of Jewish Partisans, the Lublin radio also said.

★

BRITAIN has ceased issuing visas for Palestine to Jewish refugees arriving in Turkey from the Balkans, a Foreign Office spokesman said, but he denied that this meant any change in British policy toward Palestine immigration.

Normal visas will continue to be issued, under the limitations of the White Paper, by British authorities in the countries in which the prospective emigrants now reside, he said, adding that this procedure had been discussed with the Jewish Agency. He pointed out that 640 Jews who left Rumania after the issuance of emergency visas had been suspended, and who were consequently held up in Bulgaria, have been given visas. This group arrived in Turkey during the week-end.

★

THE American Red Cross will no longer transmit messages concerning visa petitions or Palestine immigration certificates to persons in enemy or enemy-held territory, it was announced here.

A spokesman for the Red Cross said that the service was being discontinued at the request of the Office of Censorship, which feels that transmission of such messages is not practicable at present.

★

PALESTINE's housing shortage, which has been made more acute by the arrival of hundreds of immigrants in recent months, has led groups of homeless persons to "invade" unoccupied houses or apartments.

★

A number of refugees newly arrived from the Balkans, and unable to find even temporary shelter, broke into the vacated building of an insane asylum at Bnei Brak, and into several private homes at Nathanya. In the latter colony, a group of Yemenite refugees this week "invaded" the villa of Dr. Bernard Joseph, legal advisor of the Jewish Agency, who is now in the United States.

★

A \$350,000 BUDGET to finance child care and medical activities of the OSE (Jewish Health Union) abroad during 1945 has been adopted by the organization's board of directors, it was announced by Dr. Israel Wechsler, head of the Neurological Department of Mt. Sinai Hospital, who is chairman of the board. The bulk of the funds, which will be supplemented by a grant from the Joint Distribution Committee, will be raised outside the United States.

The primary task of the American OSE during 1945, Dr. Wechsler said, will be the establishment of new health facilities in liberated European territories and continuation and expansion of its child-care activities in Europe and Palestine. He revealed that the organization plans to establish several fully-equipped hospitals, children's homes and polyclinics for the Jews in the liberated areas of Poland.

•

HAYM SOLOMON, Jewish patriot who helped finance the Revolutionary War, was honored by the city of Philadelphia on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of his death. Patriotic, historical, fraternal and veterans' groups participated in ceremonies held in the Mikveh Israel Cemetery.

★

AN impressive tribute to the late Dr. Victor Basch, Jewish educator and phil-

osopher, who was murdered by the Vichy militia, was paid at a memorial meeting in the Richelieu Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, Paris.

Prof. Basch, then 84, together with his wife, was taken from his home last January by members of the Vichy militia, to a suburb of Lyon. Both were murdered.

★

THE Central Jewish Relief Committee in Lublin reports that hundreds of Jewish children, sheltered in churches and in the homes of Polish peasants during the German occupation, are being turned over to Jewish communities in the liberated part of Poland where homes for Jewish orphans are being established under the supervision of Jewish leaders.

★

A CALL to all Jews in liberated Holland to reconstitute their communities was issued by the provisional Committee for the Rehabilitation of Jews in Holland which has its headquarters in Brussels.

Thanking the Dutch people for the assistance given to Jews through the underground during the German occupation and welcoming the Allied armies, the appeal says:

"The remnants of the Jews in Holland must prepare themselves for the rebuilding of their world-famous communities which flourished on Dutch soil for three-and-a-half centuries, but were wiped out within two years by the hated bestial enemy. We call upon you to register with the Provisional Committee for the Rehabilitation of Jews in Holland. Help to build up once again our ancient communities and their institutions. We shall try to restore Jewish life. We shall establish a fund to alleviate distress. We shall get into contact with all organizations of Dutch Jews temporarily established abroad."

★

How a fast-thinking Irish lieutenant from Utica, New York, saved his regiment's payroll, and, perhaps, his life, by the judicious use of the few words of Yiddish he knows was revealed by a *New York Times* correspondent with the American Third Army.

The officer, Lieut. William McConnell, was captured by a German platoon, which seized the payroll of \$5,600. As the Nazis began distributing the money

among themselves, Lieut. McConnell barked a protest in Yiddish, which the Nazis apparently took for German, a language of which the lieutenant is completely ignorant. The platoon sergeant ordered his men to leave the money alone.

Then, using McConnell as a shield, they attempted to seize a company command post in a hotel, but as they approached the post, McConnell ducked and called to the men inside to fire. When the skirmish was over, all the Nazis, with the exception of the sergeant, were dead.

★

REP. A. LEONARD ALLEN of Louisiana and Stephen Pace of Georgia introduced bills to suspend immigration of aliens into the United States from the end of the present war until the number of unemployed persons in the United States is less than one million.

Meanwhile, a resolution authorizing the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization "to study the basic problems affecting post-war immigration and naturalization" was referred to the Committee on Rules. Rep. Samuel Dickstein of New York introduced the measure.

Rep. William L. Dawson of Illinois has introduced a resolution to create a special committee to make a full and complete study of race relations in the United States.

Rep. Dickstein also introduced a measure urging creation of additional "free ports" for refugees in the United States and, simultaneously, presented a concurrent resolution providing for the restoration of property confiscated by the Axis, which went to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and a concurrent resolution "declaring it to be un-American to participate in activities to create racial or religious disunity." This measure went to the Judiciary Committee.

★

THE Rumanian Government has issued instructions to its consulates abroad to grant visas to denaturalized Rumanian Jews who may wish to come to Rumania to liquidate their properties.

The instructions provide that visas are to be issued even to those Jews who signed a declaration giving up their Rumanian citizenship. In addition to a Rumanian visa, an entrance visa from the Allied Control Commission is required for admittance to the country.

THE American Zionist Emergency Council criticized the statement of Sir Edward Grigg, new British Minister of State Resident in the Middle East, to the effect that the Jews of Palestine must eliminate the terrorist group in Palestine or suffer the loss of world-wide Christian support for their hopes of an independent nation.

"Sir Edward Grigg, in his first public statement as British Minister of State Resident in the Middle East, has sought to link continued support by the Christian world of Jewish aspirations in Palestine with the problem of the elimination of the small terrorist group there," the Council said in a statement to the press. "Sir Edward Grigg earned the gratitude of the Jewish people by refusing, together with Winston Churchill and others, to vote in 1939 with the members of his party in the House of Commons in favor of the Chamberlain White Paper which sought to put an end to the Jewish National Home in Palestine. He thereby gave proof of his unwillingness to support a policy which was fundamentally unjust."

"It accords ill with that attitude to suggest that civilized humanity will be deflected by the acts of a few individuals from its purpose to restore the Jews to their rightful place among the nations of the world, and thereby to fulfill an undertaking founded on profound moral and humanitarian considerations."

★

THE Jewish National Fund now owns 750,000 dunams (a dunam is approximately one-fourth of an acre) of land in Palestine, it was revealed in Tel Aviv at a 43rd anniversary exhibit arranged by the J.N.F. There are 185 settlements on J.N.F. land. Since its inception, the organization has collected ten million pounds.

★

THE exceptionally friendly treatment given American soldiers on furlough by the residents of Tel Aviv will make many of them strongly pro-Zionist, Anne O'Hare McCormick stated in a report from the all-Jewish city.

Describing Tel Aviv as a modern, cosmopolitan and international city, she quotes U. S. soldiers as stating that it is the best place they have seen since they left home. Miss McCormick says further

that the soldiers' reaction is important because "the first thing one discovers here is that the attitude of America will have a powerful influence in deciding the future of Palestine and, by extension, the wish for this is the keypiece in the puzzle—the future of this restless and troubled part of the world."

★

KING IBN SAUD of Arabia has decided to participate in attempts to organize a pan-Arab federation, according to authoritative Egyptian government circles. These quarters say that he had agreed to send delegates to the next pan-Arab conference and has accepted the decisions reached at the meeting in Alexandria in October. Ibn Saud's refusal to participate in a pan-Arab movement, until after the post-war settlements, has been one of the chief stumbling blocks to formation of an Arab union.

Christian Woman Leaves Fortune to J.D.C.

A FORTUNE of between two and three million francs has been bequeathed by an Austrian woman of the Protestant faith to the Joint Distribution Committee to be used to aid Austrian Jews, it was learned in Paris.

Officials of the probate court of the Alpes-Maritime department notified the Paris office of the J.D.C. of the bequest, made by Mlle. Marie Louise Wollner-Hofteufel, who died in a sanatorium at Vance on May 15, 1944. In explaining her reason for bequeathing her estate for Jewish relief, she declared, "I have taken the decision to leave my fortune for the aid of these who I feel are the poorest among the poor because they are persecuted for their faith."

J.D.C. officials here were surprised by notification of the bequest, since to their knowledge, Mlle. Hofteufel had never had any contact with the relief organization. They said that on the basis of the executor's report, the estate was valued at between two and three million francs, principally in cash, jewelry and personal effects in France, and jewelry and cash in both Swiss and New York banks.

ESTABLISHMENT of a South African-Palestine Shipping Company was announced here at a meeting in Tel Aviv

of the Foreign Trade Institute of the Jewish Industrialists Association. P. H. Manheim, who will head the new line, said that it has been capitalized at \$500,000.

The company's main object, Mr. Manheim said, will be to assist and finance the export and marketing of Palestine products in South Africa, and supply Palestine industry with cheap raw materials from South Africa, the Belgian Congo and other sections of the continent.

A permanent office of the Foreign Trade Institute will be opened in Teheran, it was disclosed at the meeting, which heard a report of the successful tour of Cyprus made by the Institute's travelling exhibit of Palestine industry. The exhibition is now in Turkey, from where it will proceed to Teheran.

★

THE police announced that they are investigating the kidnapping of a Jerusalem resident, the eighth to be abducted in recent weeks. The new victim is Yehoshua Werker, 31, the proprietor of a print shop. Werker, like several of the kidnapped men, is a member of the Revisionist Organization.

★

THE United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has agreed to release, temporarily, a number of its staff members to work for the Joint Distribution in France, Italy and in the liberated Balkan countries, it was reported in London by Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European director of the J.D.C., upon his arrival there to confer on the establishment of J.D.C. offices in Rumania and Bulgaria.

★

A RADICAL change in Australia's migration policy was advocated by T. Williams, labor member of the Australian Federal Parliament. Williams urged the expenditure of approximately \$4,000,000,000 to bring a million people to Australia.

"I cannot understand why the Jews were rebuffed in their proposal to people the Kimberly country," Williams said. "I'd like to see those negotiations reopened because as long as we get healthy white people it doesn't matter to which race they belong."

"The supply from Britain will be limited," he warned. "We shall be forced to look for extra people from southern Europe." He named Italy, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Poland as potential sources of immigrants.

★

A DEMAND that the present Parliament adopt a final policy on Palestine immediately is voiced in an editorial in the London *Daily Express*.

Citing the three "conflicting Palestine policies" which were announced before the war, namely, the partition plan of 1937, the reversal of this plan by the Peel Commission in 1938, and the White Paper of 1939, the editorial says: "Before the tired old Parliament ends its term of office it should produce and implement a final policy and should be energetic in the matter."

★

THE Polish Telegraphic Agency reported that a group of 35 Jewish engineers died in a suicide action which destroyed a German rubber factory in Silesia just before the Germans started their offensive on the western front.

The entire plant and the stores of tires which were intended for the use of the German army were blown up. In addition to the Jewish engineers, all the German supervisors and a large number of Nazi workers were killed.

★

THE draft of a law providing for punishment of war criminals was made public here by the Rumanian Minister of Justice. It specifies that those found guilty of participating in the persecution of Jews will come within the category of war criminals.

★

TAKING its lead from Hitler's New Year's address, in which he repeated his usual wild attacks on Jews, the press in Germany has opened a renewed anti-Jewish campaign, aimed at stiffening the resistance of the Germans by warning them that they will be annihilated by "revengeful Jews" should Germany be defeated.

★

AN official denial of reports that Russian authorities in Bessarabia and Bukovina are transferring Jews from those areas to the Urals and Siberia was issued by the Soviet Jewish Press Agency, in Moscow.

Replying to a request by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for information concerning the reports, which were published last month in the Palestine Hebrew press, the Jewish Press Agency stated:

"Rumors spread by the Palestine press regarding the deportation of Bukovinian and Bessarabian Jews to Siberia and the Urals are merely one more anti-Soviet canard. In connection with the military situation some people are drafted for the labor front. Among the draftees are Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians and others. Jews form no exception."

★

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT favors enactment of legislation setting up a Permanent Fair Employment Practice Commission, Malcom Ross, chairman of the present FEPC, told reporters after a brief visit to the White House.

Meanwhile, Rep. Charles LaFollette of Indiana introduced a bill calling for a permanent FEPC at the opening session of the 79th Congress.

★

THE Arab press published a statement issued by Emir Abdullah, ruler of Transjordan, emphasizing that he will resist any further Jewish immigration to Palestine when the quota of Jews permitted to enter under the British White Paper is filled. Only a few thousand Jews can still enter Palestine under the White Paper quota. Emir Abdullah is quoted as stating: "Trouble between Jews and Arabs is inevitable if Britain withdraws from Palestine, or if it fails to adhere to the terms of the White Paper. The Arabs are mobile. They have no nerve centers which can be knocked out, thus forcing them to cease fighting."

[Continued on page 23]

NEW BOOKS

[Continued from page 14]

quently in some of our leading magazines, possesses the unique gift of being able to tell a story in such a fascinating way as to hold the interest and attention of any child. He has humor, imagination and, above all, the ability to dramatize historical facts, so that the child is held spell-bound by the tale which the author unfolds. And the child learns what every American child, non-Jew as well as Jew, should know—how the Jews helped in the discovery and building of America, and the manifold contributions which the Jew has brought to the varied patterns of American life. The book includes the story of the Jews who encouraged and accompanied Columbus, the account of the Jews who helped George Washington, and brings the record down to modern times with the epic of Krotoshinsky, who saved the Lost Battalion in the First World War. "Americans All" is filled with such facts of interest, and told with such great skill, that not only a child but also an adult will delight in it. It should be on the "must" reading list of every Jewish child, and parents will be wise to place this book on Junior's desk. Junior will not only find pleasure in its pages, but will acquire a new knowledge of the part which the Jews have had in the making of glorious America.

"*The Relevance of the Prophets*," by R. B. Y. Scott. The Macmillan Company, New York.

PERHAPS at no period in history has the message of the Prophets in Israel been as necessary as it is today. And at no previous time has their message been more relevant than it is today. The author of this well-written book proves this thesis in a very convincing fashion.

But he does more. He discusses the nature of prophecy, the social and religious history which created the setting for the flowering of prophecy, and gives, in a very popular and interesting manner, a detailed account of the greatness and uniqueness of the supreme exemplars of prophetic teaching—Hosea, Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah. The most interesting part of the book is that in which he discusses the Prophets' views on the Social Order, and here is where the relevance of the prophetic teachings for our day becomes so apparent.

The author, a Christian theologian, deserves high praise for his liberal approach to the study of the Hebrew prophets, and for his recognition of the great value of the teachings of our ancient Prophets for the troubled world of our day.

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER ACTIVITIES

Army Chaplain To Be Guest Preacher

THIS Friday evening, January 26, at our late services which begin at 8:30 o'clock, we shall be privileged to have as our guest preacher, Chaplain Aaron Blumenthal, who is serving our wounded soldiers at the Halloran General Hospital. Chaplain Blumenthal is a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and has occupied a very important pulpit before his enlistment in the United States Army. He has been in the service for almost two years and his experiences with the Jewish men in the army, which he will discuss in this message, should be of the greatest interest to all of our congregation.

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend.

Advance Notice

NEXT Friday evening, February 2, Rabbi Levinthal will preach on the subject: "Religious Ceremonialism—Can It Be Dispensed With?"

Rev. Leibele Treiner Guest Cantor This Saturday

IN the absence of our Cantor, Rev. Rubin Tucker, Rev. Leibele Treiner, one of the leading Cantors in the city, will officiate this Sabbath morning, January 27. He will also render several selections at the late Friday night services, January 26.

Sisterhood Meeting February 5th

THE next regular monthly meeting of the Sisterhood will be held on the first Monday afternoon, February 5, instead of the second Monday of this month, due to the celebration of the Lincoln's Birthday holiday. The cultural program will include discussion of current plays by Mrs. Helen G. Metzler, noted and popular reviewer. Mrs. Bertha Zirn, one of our own members, will review the course in Jewish History and Religion taught at the Center by Mrs. Helen Levinthal Lyons. Refreshments will be served.

Club Activities

ALL the clubs are making preparation for the Joint Chamishah Asar Bishvat celebration which will be held on Satur-

day, January 27. The program will consist of recitations, stories and songs.

The Chanukah joint celebration was very successful. The following took part in the program: Michael Sircus, Irving Alster, Joseph Buchman, Abner Beder, Florence Bromberg, Lloyd Altman, Haskell Klaristenfeld, Martin Staub and Morton Silver.

Inta-League Boys and Girls

THE Inta-League Boys and Girls conducted a quiz program consisting of questions pertaining to Jewish history, customs and ceremonies. The boys won the prize.

On Saturday, January 13, the discussion was devoted to the topic of Anti-Semitism.

Tzofim

THE Tzofim are conducting a handball and ping-pong tournament. The winners will be announced later. The topic for discussion at their last meeting was, "Should We Have Compulsory Military Training After the War?"

Maccabees

LIKE the Tzofim, the Maccabees are conducting a handball tournament. The cultural programs consisted of discussions of the holidays. Some of the topics were "Chanukah in War Time," "Aims of Young Judeas," "Meaning of Jewish Arbor Day."

Vivalets

THE Vivalets and Candle-Lites arranged a successful moving picture party.

On January 13 the clubs participated in a gymnasium program.

New Club

A NEW club for girls between the ages of 9-11 is being formed. Children of Center members and students attending the Center schools are invited to join. The first meeting of the club will take place on Sunday, January 21 at 2:30 in Room 6 on the 3rd floor.

The leader of the club will be Miss Muriel Goldberg.

Acknowledgment of Gifts

WE acknowledge with thanks receipt of gifts from the following:

Torah Mantles

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Friedman, in memory of parents and in honor of her son in service, Major Allen J. Friedman

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Rosen

Mrs. Jacob Rutstein

Mrs. Louis Zankel, in memory of Louis Zankel

Prayer Books

Harry Marks

Dr. and Mrs. Jay R. Rabinowitz, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Gerald David, on December 9

Mr. and Mrs. David Tanenbaum, in honor of the birth of their son, Roger Sampson, on December 21

Library

Mrs. Benjamin Z. Levitt

Mrs. Fannie Buchman

Henry A. Kahan

Sabbath Services

KINDLING of candles at 5:58 P.M.
Friday evening services at 5:30.

Sabbath services, Parsha "Beshalah," will commence at 8:45 A.M.

Rabbi Levinthal will preach on the weekly portion of the Torah.

Mr. Edelheit will continue his interesting lectures in Yiddish this Saturday, at 4:30 P.M. sharp. All are welcome.

Mincha services at 5:30.

Daily Services

MORNING services at 7:00 and 8:00 o'clock.

Mincha services at 5:30.

Clothing for Yugo Slav Relief

THE American Committee for Yugo Slav relief is now conducting a campaign for clothing, food and medical supplies for shipment to Yugo Slavia at the earliest possible moment.

The committee has been formed to conduct a campaign in the Crown Heights section of which Mrs. Ruth Bernhardt is co-chairman.

Clothing and contributions to the Yugo Slav relief funds may be sent to the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following have applied for membership in the Brooklyn Jewish Center:

BASSE, HENRY

Res. 35 Amboy St.
Bus. Meat, 16 Belmont Ave.
Married
Proposed by Irving I. Becker

BERK, DR. LOUIS A.

Res. 925 Prospect Pl.
Bus. 11 West 42nd St.
Married
Proposed by Jacob S. Doner

BERMAN, JACOB A.

Res. 1209 President St.
Bus. Water Supply, 120 Wall St.
Married

BLOOM, EDWARD

Res. 426 Eastern Pkwy.
Bus. Insurance, 116 John St.
Married
Proposed by Leonard Singer

BOYKOFF, EMANUEL

Res. 706 Eastern Pkwy.
Bus. Attorney, 350 Fifth Ave.
Married
Proposed by Emanuel Cohen,
David Wald

BREIER, HENRY

Res. 441 Avenue T
Bus. Milk, 1624 Centre St.
Married
Proposed by Irving Abramson

DAVIS, EMANUEL

Res. 763 Eastern Pkwy.
Bus. Mfg., 31 W. 47th St.
Married
Proposed by Joseph Goldstein,
Robert Kaplan

DICKMAN, IRVING

Res. 584 Montgomery St.
Bus. Wholesale Grocers, 40th St. and
1st Ave.
Married
Proposed by Oscar Kurshan

DREXLER, ARMAND

Res. 1282 Carroll St.
Bus. Attorney, 100 E. 42nd St.
Single

FUCHS, MOSES E.

Res. 827 Eastern Pkwy.
Bus. Silks, 1410 Broadway
Married

HORLICK, BEN

Res. 320 Sterling St.
Bus. Laundry, 1299 Lincoln Pl.
Single

ISAACS, EDWARD

Res. 135 Eastern Pkwy.
Bus. C.P.A.
Married

Proposed by Julius Leventhal,
Reuben Frieman

KUSHNER, JULIUS

Res. 798 Montgomery St.
Bus. Toys, 200 Fifth Ave.
Married
Proposed by David Brown

LIEB, HENRY

Res. 762 St. Marks Ave.
Bus. Plumbing Supp., 1747 Fulton
St.
Married
Proposed by Murray D. Isacowitz

MEISEL, JOSEPH

Res. 365 New York Ave.
Bus. Metal Prod., 5-15—48th Ave.
Married
Proposed by Samuel Silverman

METZ, MARVIN J.

Res. 1324 Carroll St.
Bus. Fur Dyeing, 60 Van Dam St.
Single
Proposed by Gerald Jacobs

METZ, MAX

Res. 1324 Carroll St.
Bus. Fur Dyeing, 60 Van Dam St.
Married
Proposed by Gerald Jacobs

MILLER, MORRIS

Res. 1040 Union St.
Bus. Aircraft, 1940 Jerome Ave.
Married
Proposed by Abe Mann

OKOSKIN, HERBERT J.

Res. 455 Schenectady Ave.
Bus. Adv. Displays, 115 Christopher
St.
Married

RUBIN, IRVIN B.

Res. 1475 President St.
Bus. Plastics, 484 Greenwich St.
Single
Proposed by Arthur Safier

SCHILANGER, SAMUEL

Res. 250 Crown St.
Bus. Metal Prod., 366-68 Butler St.
Married
Proposed by Irving Horowitz,
Sidney S. Leonard

SCIWARTZ, B. ALAN

Res. 480 E. 21st St.
Bus. Furniture, 668 Flushing Ave.
Married

SEAMON, AL

Res. 9117 Avenue A
Bus. Leather Goods, 2395 Pacific St.
Married
Proposed by Louis Seamon

SINGER, HYMAN M.

Res. 70 Pierrepont St.
Bus. Treasury Dept., Port of N. Y.
Married

TUCKER, MISS JENNIE

Res. 224 E. 95th St.
Proposed by Jack Tucker

WEINSTEIN, LOUIS H.

Res. 2601 Glenwood Rd.
Bus. Dental & Med. Equip., 126
11th Ave.
Married
Proposed by Michael S. Weinstein

ZUKOFSKY, SAM

Res. 451 Crown St.
Bus. Feathers, 134 Sutton St.
Married
Proposed by Morris Kurtin,
Milton R. Sara

The following have applied for reinstatement:

KIRSCHMAN, MILTON J.

Res. 364 Crown St.
Bus. Tissue Mfg., 335 Throop Ave.
Married

NURNBERG, JACK E.

Res. 440 Brooklyn Ave.
Bus. Dresses, 530—7th Ave.
Married
Proposed by Morris Kramer

[Center News continued on page 23]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTER SISTERHOOD

For the Year 1944

By LILIAN M. LOWENFELD, President

THE year that has just passed was one of the most active in the history of our Sisterhood, but in spite of the many responsibilities placed upon us, the task of fulfilling our regular objectives as well as community and war obligations, was successfully carried out.

I do not intend to burden you with a lengthy report concerning our past year's activities except to say every phase of our work was expanded and showed progress.

We are not a dues paying organization. The wives of Center members, and women who are members in their own right, are automatically members of the Sisterhood.

No organization can function without funds. We raised part of the money we needed through a theatre party held in the month of May, under the very efficient chairmanship of Mrs. Bessie Fine, and her co-chairmen, Mrs. Mimi Rachmil and Mrs. Anna Witty. Its results can best be made known to you by the brief statement that the net profit was about \$2,700. It is difficult indeed to express the gratitude I feel toward Mrs. Fine, her co-chairmen, and all of you who contributed to the success of the theatre party. \$560 of the proceeds was given, through the Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, for a scholarship at the Jewish Theological Seminary; \$200 was donated to the Jewish Welfare Board; \$150 to the United Jewish Appeal; \$100 to the Emergency Fund of the Red Cross, and part of the balance to about 25 other worthy causes.

Religious Service: Mrs. Hannah Jaffe, chairman. Mrs. Jaffe arranged for a prayer to be recited at every meeting of our Sisterhood.

Once a month, the children of the Junior Congregation are provided with a Kiddush on the Sabbaths preceding Rosh Chodesh, the first of the month. The host or hostess is usually a member who provides the Kiddush in honor of some occasion. Once a year the Center Academy children conduct the services in the Junior Congregation, and their parents are hostesses for that day.

Approximately 2,500 men, women and children of the Junior and Senior congregations visited the Succah and partook of the wine and cake served the first two mornings of the Succoth holiday. Members of the Religious Service and Sisterhood committees supervised the serving of the Kiddush.

39 Bibles were presented to the boys who were Bar Mitzvah at our Center last year. 22 books on "Jewish Thoughts" to the girls who were consecrated on Shevuoth, and 14 to the graduates of our Hebrew School.

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This year the Sisterhood presented a Steinway grand piano to the Center.

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291 Chanukah gift packages were mailed to our Center men in the armed forces. 113 of these went overseas.

124 gifts of money were mailed to the Army and Navy Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board for Purim, Pesach and Chanukah gifts. These were distributed by the Chaplains to the men in isolated areas overseas. Several of our women helped pack these boxes.

★

Money for Pesach food was given to needy families.

A Chanukah party was given to the children of the Jewish Home for Chronic Diseases.

Some of the money made available for these gifts comes from our Cheer Fund. Our members contribute to this fund in times of joy or in memory of their departed. A list of the donors for the past year will appear in the next issue of the *Center Review*. Mrs. Bess Barnett, chairman of the Cheer Fund, has earned our sincere gratitude for her fine acknowledgments written to the persons honored or their families.

★

For three consecutive Sunday evenings the Sisterhood acted as host to the Army and Navy teams who played basketball at our Center. Refreshments were served to all servicemen and to the basketball teams.

Red Cross War Activities: Mrs. Ruth Bernhardt, chairman. Every week on Tuesdays, from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M., the women are busily engaged in making surgical dressings and sewing for the war effort. The Center has been recognized as one of the leading Red Cross units in Brooklyn. Mrs. Bernhardt and her committee deserve full credit for the success of this unit.

Red Cross Emergency Drive: Mrs. Anna Witty, chairman. Through the efforts of the chairman, more than \$4,000 was raised for the Red Cross.

War Bond Drive: Mrs. Sarah Rey and Mrs. Mildred Levine co-chairmen. The chairmen and their committee have been at the Center daily selling bonds and stamps. During the past year more than a million dollars worth of bonds were sold. In the fifth war bond drive the Center entered the A. & S. contest, and won a prize of a fifty-dollar war bond, which was presented to the Center.

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The Sisterhood took an active part in the two most important drives, the "Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropies" and the "United Jewish Appeal." For the Federation drive of 1943-44, Mrs. Rae Siegel was chairman. The sum of \$6,719 was raised. For the 1944-45 drive Mrs. Ruth Bernhardt is chairman. So far, we know that we have exceeded last year's amount, but as yet we have not received the complete results.

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The United Jewish Appeal Drive was under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Rae Siegel, for Sisterhood; Mrs. Lucille Lemberg, for Center Academy, and Mrs. Miriam Schiller, for the Eastern Parkway Hadassah. The sum of \$10,428 was raised for the year of 1944, \$5,000 more than the previous year.

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Mrs. Gertrude Ostow was chairman for the "Night of Stars." Tickets totaling \$638.60 were sold. This sum was given to the United Jewish Appeal.

\$200 was raised for the New York War Fund, through our chairman, Mrs. Shirley Gluckstein.

The Brooklyn Hebrew Home and Hospital for the Aged held their Annual Bazaar. Mrs. Gertrude Raabin assumed the chairmanship for the Sisterhood. In the month of March she and her committee served luncheon and dinner to the many members who patronized our tables. The income for the day was \$605.

A bazaar was also held for the Jewish Day for the Blind, in May. Mrs. Ida Fried, the chairman, with her able committee, netted \$630, which was \$100 more than in 1943.

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After the summer, all our efforts were directed to the planning of our Annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon and Fashion Show, which was held on Wednesday, October 25th, in our Auditorium. This is an interesting social event as well as a source of revenue. Once again our members and their friends were most cooperative, and the success of the annual affair was in a large measure due to our chairman, Mrs. Mildred Levine, and her co-chairmen, Mrs. Sylvia Dilbert, Mrs. Sylvia Farber, Mrs. Bertha Greenblatt, Mrs. Gertrude Haimowitz, Mrs. Clare Mitrani and Mrs. Dorothy Wissner. Our thanks to Mr. Samuel Peckman, of Hyman Spitz Co., for donating the beautiful floral decorations, and to Mr. Louis Kotinsky, for his service and cooperation. Our appreciation and gratitude are due to our Rabbi, Dr. Levinthal, and Judge Greenberg for their inspiring messages, and to our Cantor, Rubin Tucker, for his beautiful rendition of the vocal selections.

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The Sisterhood is affiliated with two national organizations, the Women's League of the United Synagogue of America and the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations. We send delegates to their meetings, conventions and conferences.

This year the Brooklyn Borough Meeting was held at the Center on November 1, at which time the Sisterhood acted as hostess and served refreshments to the 400 delegates. The number of delegates who usually attend these Brooklyn meetings is not more than 100. Our two delegates, Mrs. Rose Wiener and Mrs. Shirley Gluckstein, and eight more representatives, attended the annual convention and luncheon of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations.

Several of our delegates were present at the conference of the Women's League of the United Synagogue of America. Mrs. Bertha Zirn gave a report of this conference at our November meeting. Many of our members also attended the Chanukah Luncheon of the Women's League.

Our Honorary President, Mrs. Rose Horowitz, was a delegate to the American Jewish Conference, which took place in Pittsburgh. We were privileged to hear her comprehensive report at our December board meeting, when all members were invited to attend.

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During the past year a Survey Committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Center. Mr. Samuel Rottenberg, its chairman, reviewed our activities and several constructive suggestions were made. We hope to act upon these suggestions during the coming year.

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Our program chairmen, Mrs. Mae Levinthal and Mrs. Sarah Klinghoffer, had several interesting speakers and musical talent at our meetings during the past year.

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Mrs. Mimi Rachmil and Mrs. Kate Salit made condolence calls to the families of our members.

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In concluding my report, I want to express my appreciation to our President, Judge Emanuel Greenberg and to the chairman of the House Committee, Mr. Hyman Aaron, for their unfailing cooperation; to our executive director, Mr. Joseph Goldberg, for his helpful assistance, and to Dr. Levinthal for his advice and inspiration. And to all the members of the Sisterhood, my personal, as well as official thanks.

I also want to thank the office staff for its services in our behalf.

Finally, to you, my fellow officers and to all my chairmen and their committees, my sincerest appreciation and gratitude for sharing in my responsibilities and easing my burden. It has been a pleasure working together with you throughout the year, and I will always be thankful to you for your loyalty and cooperation. My sincere thanks are also extended to the members of the Sisterhood for their attendance and encouragement.

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

[Continued from page 18]

THE policy of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, who recently predicted that there will be no Jewish State in Palestine for the next five or six years, was given full support in a resolution adopted at the closing session of the annual conference of the Aliyah Chadasha, the second largest Jewish political party in Palestine, which is composed of immigrants from Germany and central Europe.

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MORE than 250,000 Jewish men and women from New York City are serving in the U. S. armed forces, it was revealed by George Z. Medalie, president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

★

THE first group of Jews recruited in England for the Jewish Brigade left London for a training camp in Kent. The recruits were given a farewell reception before leaving, and addressed by representatives of the War Office and Jewish leaders.

THE 1943 Louis Lamed Foundation prizes for Yiddish and Hebrew literature were presented at a reception in the Park Central Hotel, attended by more than 1,000 guests. Present to receive the \$250 awards were five American writers, while the sixth will be sent to H. Ayalty of Montevideo, Uruguay. Those to whom prizes were presented include Joseph Opatashu, Aron Zeitlin, Harry Sackler, A. Epstein and Dr. S. Feigin.

CENTER NEWS

[Continued from page 20]

Yiddish Evening of Humor and Poetry

ON Monday evening, February 12th (Lincoln's Birthday), at 8:30 o'clock, a very interesting program of Jewish humor, poetry and song will be given at the Center. This event is in honor of the well known poet and humorist, Jacob Marinoff, former Editor of *The Kundes*, who has recently published a new volume of poetry, "We Will Survive." Among

the artists who will appear are: The Brighton and Bath Beach I.W.O. Chorus of 100 voices, under the leadership of Leo Low, Vladimir Heifitz, pianist-composer, Joseph Strugoch and Al Harris, recitations, J. B. Bialostotzky, poet and essayist, Daniel Charney, contributor to *The Day*, and Vladimir Weissman, violinist. Dr. Abraham Asen will introduce the chairman, Zalman Zilberzweig, Editor of *Der Amerikaner*.

Admission: 30¢ to Center members, and 60¢ to non-members, including tax.

Rally for Yugo Slavia Relief At the Center

A RALLY will be held at the Center on Wednesday evening, January 31st for emergency relief for the liberated peoples of Yugo Slavia. The guest speaker will be Estelle Sternberger, noted radio commentator. An invitation is extended to Center members to attend.

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